

3600.5209-D2
February 17, 2005 (9:07am)

Docket: AM-5209.D2

Remarks

Claims 1, 2, 4-11, 13-16, 42-47, 50, 52-62, and 64-67 remain in the application.

The Examiner objects to the claims on a number of grounds. He states that claim 12 is redundant with claim 8. The Examiner wishes claims 17-41 to be explicitly canceled. They have been. He points out that claim 67 depends from canceled claim 3. Its dependency has been changed.

The Examiner rejects claims 48 and 49 under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶1 for lack of enablement, in particular with regards to depositing and removing the first barrier layer in a single chamber.

The Examiner rejects claim 63 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Merchant et al. (U.S. Patent 6,100,587), hereafter Merchant). This claim has been canceled in favor of its dependent claim 64.

The Examiner rejects claim 64 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Merchant in view of Ding et al. (U.S. Patent 6,328,871, AMAT docket #2859, hereafter Ding). Ding can be cited only as §102(e) prior art since its issuance date of December 11, 2001 is subsequent to the filing date of November 1, 2000 for the grandparent application 09/704,161. Ding, however, is commonly owned with the present application by Applied Materials, Inc. at the times of their respective inventions. The assignment for the Ding patent was recorded at Reel/Frame 010182/0895 on August 16, 1999. The grandparent application of the present application was recorded at Reel/Frame 11668/0253 on March 13, 2001. Accordingly, under 35 U.S.C. §103(c), Ding does not preclude patentability and this rejection should be removed.

The Examiner rejects claims 42-47, 50, 52, 53, and 65 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Geffken et al. (U.S. Patent 5,985,762, hereafter Geffken) in view of Merchant and Ding. Because of the common ownership of the Ding reference, this rejection should be removed.

The Examiner rejects claims 48, 49, and 51 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Geffken in view of Merchant and Simon. These claims have been canceled.

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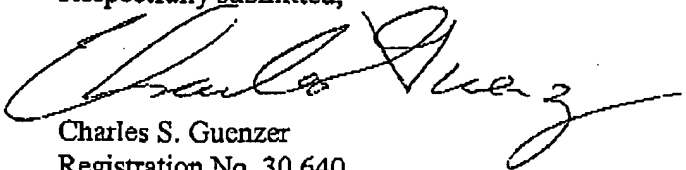
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The Examiner rejects claims 1, 2, 4-16, and 42-67 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Ding in view of Simon et al. (U.S. Patent 5,933,753, hereafter Simon) in view of Satta et al. (U.S. Patent 6,391,785, hereafter Satta). In view of the common ownership of the Ding reference, this rejection should be removed.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, early consideration and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would be helpful, he is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the listed telephone number, which is on California time.

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Respectfully submitted,


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